## IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1.    (Currently amended): A system for facilitating transactions among travel service suppliers and travel service buyers, the system comprising:

a communication network in communication with a plurality of centralized hub sites, and configured to provide access to a plurality of data distribution systems, a travel broker database, and a travel history database through the hub sites via a technology provider,

wherein the plurality of data distribution systems are connected to a plurality of travel vendor databases, each data distribution system having a respective load level,

wherein the travel broker database is configured to store information about travel service inventory, and to be accessed by the travel service suppliers who post and edit travel service inventory and place reverse auction bids on posted travel service inventory, and to be accessed by the travel service buyers who browse and perform queries on the travel service inventory and accept reverse auction bids for travel service inventory from travel service suppliers, and

wherein the travel history database is configured to store current information about a traveler's future travel plans and to be accessed by travel service buyers who use information about a traveler's future travel plans to place orders to travel service suppliers,

wherein at least one of the travel broker database and the travel history database stores information in a plurality of data sets in a plurality of formats; and

a point of service terminal connected to the communication network and configured to

access the travel broker database, the travel history database, and one of the plurality of data

distribution systems selected based on a contractual requirement embodied in a configuration

item ~~the load levels of the plurality of data distribution systems~~, and wherein the travel service

buyers, travel service sellers, and the point of service terminal access the travel broker database,

the travel history database, and the selected one of the plurality of data distribution systems via

the technology provider through the communication network.

2.       (Previously presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of

data sets are stored as ungrouped data elements formatted as a block of binary via a fixed

memory offset.

3.       (Previously presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of

data sets are annotated for storage onto a financial transaction instrument with at least one of: a

header and a trailer.

4.       (Currently amended): A method for machine implemented facilitation of

~~facilitating~~ transactions among travel service suppliers and travel service buyers, the machine

implemented method comprising the steps of:

providing a communication network in communication with a plurality of centralized hub

sites, wherein the communication network is configured to provide access to a plurality of data

distribution systems, a travel broker database embodied in a first data store, a travel history

database embodied in a second data store, and a point of service terminal through the plurality of

hub sites via a technology provider, wherein the plurality of data distribution systems are

connected to a plurality of travel vendor databases, ~~each data distribution system having a~~

respective load level;

configuring, by a processor, the travel broker database to be accessible by the travel

service suppliers and the travel service buyers

and to store information about travel service inventory, wherein the travel service

suppliers post and edit information about travel service inventory, and place reverse auction bids

on travel service inventory, and wherein travel service buyers browse, perform queries, and

accept bids in a reverse auction on the travel service inventory based on the posted travel service

inventory information;

configuring, by a processor, the travel history database to store current information about

a traveler's future travel plans

and to be accessed by travel service buyers who use information about a traveler's future

travel plans to place orders to travel service suppliers; and

providing the point of service terminal with access to the broker database, the travel

history database, and one of the plurality of data distribution systems selected based on a

contractual requirement embodied in a configuration item the load levels of the plurality of data

distribution systems, via the technology provider through the communication network; and

storing information into the travel broker database and travel history database as a

plurality of data sets in a plurality of formats.

5.      (Previously presented): The method according to claim 4, further comprising the

step of:

storing the plurality of data sets as ungrouped data elements formatted as a block of binary via a fixed memory offset.

6. (Previously presented): The method according to claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

annotating the plurality of data sets; and

storing the annotated plurality of data sets onto a financial transaction instrument.

7-9. (Canceled)

10. (New) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions comprising:

instructions for communicating with a plurality of centralized hub sites, wherein a communication network is configured to provide access to a plurality of data distribution systems, a travel broker database, a travel history database, and a point of service terminal through the plurality of hub sites via a technology provider, wherein the plurality of data distribution systems are connected to a plurality of travel vendor databases;

instructions for configuring the travel broker database to be accessible by the travel service suppliers and the travel service buyers and to store information about travel service inventory, wherein the travel service suppliers post and edit information about travel service inventory, and place reverse auction bids on travel service inventory, and wherein travel service buyers browse, perform queries, and accept bids in a reverse auction on the travel service inventory based on the posted travel service inventory information;

instructions for configuring the travel history database to store current information about a traveler's future travel plans and to be accessed by travel service buyers who use information about a traveler's future travel plans to place orders to travel service suppliers;

instructions for providing the point of service terminal with access to the broker database, the travel history database, and one of the plurality of data distribution systems selected based on a contractual requirement embodied in a configuration item, via the technology provider through the communication network.

11. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the plurality of instructions further comprises instructions for storing the plurality of data sets as ungrouped data elements formatted as a block of binary via a fixed memory offset.

12. (New): The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the plurality of instructions further comprises:

instructions for annotating the plurality of data sets; and

instructions for storing the annotated plurality of data sets onto a financial transaction instrument.

13. (New): The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the plurality of instructions further comprises instructions for storing information into the travel broker database and travel history database as a plurality of data sets in a plurality of formats.

14. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the reverse auction bids are opaque.

15. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the plurality of instructions further comprises instructions for populating a screen with the traveler's future travel plans.

16. (New) The method of claim 4, further comprising populating a screen with the traveler's future travel plans.

17. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the communication network comprises a frame relay network.

18. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the communication network comprises an asynchronous transfer mode backbone and multiple redundant data centers.

19. (New) The method of claim 4, further comprising

purchasing a travel itinerary; and

printing a record of the travel itinerary.